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DR. ALBERT ROSE BURSARY PROGRAM

The Community Services and Housing Committee recommends adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, March 18, 2005, from the Commissioner of Community Services and Housing:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The following report be received for information by Committee and Council.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Committee and Council of the participation of York Region social housing tenants in the provincially funded Dr. Albert Rose Bursary Program.

3. BACKGROUND

The Dr. Albert Rose Bursary Program was established in 1984. The Ontario Housing Corporation (OHC) Board of Directors created the program to help public housing tenants attend post secondary school. In 2001, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing expanded the Program to include rent-geared-to-income households in all social housing. Since its inception, the bursaries awarded under the Program have enhanced the educational and employment opportunities of hundreds of social housing tenants across the Province.

3.1 Types of Bursaries

The program offers two types of bursaries. Full bursaries are for social housing tenants planning to attend a post-secondary institution. The bursary is awarded over a two-year period to encourage and support the tenants continuing their education. Part-time bursaries are for tenants seeking academic upgrading and trade or skills based training. Both bursaries are awarded to youth and mature students in financial need.

3.2 How the Program Works

In the spring of 2004, the Community Services and Housing Department, in partnership with York Region housing providers, distributed bursary information and applications to rent-geared-to-income households within the Region. Interested tenants then submitted applications to the Province, and the Province determined eligibility for the Program. Full and part-time bursary funds were then divided equally among all eligible applicants. For 2004, the full bursary award was \$1,824 and the part-time award was \$800.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

In total, the Province awarded 19 bursaries to tenants of York Region social housing communities. Of these, 18 were full bursaries. Participating students enrolled in programs such as Architectural Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Business Administration, Aerospace Engineering and Multimedia Production. Bursaries were awarded to students attending institutions such as George Brown College, the University of Guelph, McMaster University, Loyalist College and York University.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Bursary Program is funded by the Province. There is no financial impact on the Region.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Bursary Program supports low-income residents pursuing higher education and enhanced employment training, creating a positive community impact.

7. CONCLUSION

The Bursary Program provides much needed support to enable social housing tenants to further their education. York Region housing providers have supported their communities by promoting the Program; ensuring opportunities are created for as many students as possible.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.